



CCM 2014 Testimony

900 CHAPEL STREET, 9th FLOOR, NEW HAVEN, CT 06510-2807 PHONE (203) 498-3000 FAX (203) 562-6314

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PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

February 24, 2014

N/T

The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) is Connecticut's statewide association of towns and cities and the voice of local government - your partners in governing Connecticut. Our members represent over 92% of Connecticut's population. We appreciate the opportunity to testify on bills of interest to towns and cities.

HB 5057, "An Act The Assessment of Horses and Ponies and Farm Machinery and the Transfer of Land Classified as Farm, Open Space Land, Forest Land and Marine Heritage Land"

CCM appreciates the Planning and Development Committee's drafting of Sec. 1 of HB 5057 as it provides enabling language that would allow municipalities the option to exempt horses and ponies of any value from taxation, rather than mandating an additional property tax exemption on towns and cities.

CCM opposes Section 2 of HB 5057 which would increase the mandatory property tax exemption for farm machinery up to \$100,000 of its assessed value rather than \$100,000 of its actual value. Since the farm machinery is assessed at 70% of its actual value, this language would allow for equipment valued at \$142,857 to be exempt, and cause municipalities with farm equipment to see a reduction in their grand lists.

CCM urges the Committee to **remove Section 2 of HB 5057** before considering this bill for further action.

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If you have any questions, please contact Randy Collins, Senior Legislative Associate for CCM, at rcollins@ccm-ct.org or (860) 707-6446.